

From: Hannah Stewart [mailto:hgs@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:53 PM
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban, Bill 10 - SUPPORT

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Honorable Council Members,

Please support Bill 10, an ordinance to reduce single-use plastic bag waste. Plastic ocean pollution is a global issue, with regional solutions.

Plastic bags are a costly, environmentally damaging, and easily preventable source of litter and pollution. Light and aerodynamic, plastic bags are uniquely litter-prone even when properly disposed of, and pose a serious threat to our marine environment and wildlife. When they are no longer visible to the naked eye, plastic bags are still not fully gone but instead have photo-degraded into tiny particles that adsorb toxins and contaminate our food chain and water and soil quality.

Hawaii's ocean-based economy is threatened by plastic bags that litter its beaches and streets and impact its marine wildlife. Plastic pollution has harmed at least 267 species of birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals. We all want clean beaches and healthy wildlife in Hawaii. Maui, Kauai, and most recently Hawaii Counties have already passed ordinances to move towards this, and it's time for Honolulu County to do the same.

People may argue that it will cost more money to ban the plastic bags and it's inconvenient to change everything, but what is inconvenient is the fact that all the plastic bags that are used for a single serving and thrown right back into the trash or blown around in the winds and into our oceans is killing millions of marine animals each year. What's inconvenient is the need for expanding landfills on this island because we haven't decided to make a change in our unsustainable lifestyles. What costs more is the lives and health of our oceans and therefore ourselves. It's time to see past the money aspect of our decisions and start taking care of our planet. It's the only home we got and it's up to us to change something that is destroying it!

Please take a stand and support an ordinance on single-use plastic bags. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

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